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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Toshihiro Shima

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04/08/2004

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EXAMINER

JONES, DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/487,728

Applicant(s)

SHIMA, TOSHIHIRO

Examiner

David L Jones

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment dated 1/29/2004 has been made of record.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Edwards et al.
(US 5,873,659).

Regarding claim 1, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network, comprising:

transfer means (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) for exchanging information with said computer via said network;

Art Unit: 2622

storage means (fig. 2, #19) for storing a document file to be printed that is received from said computer via said transfer means;

configuration file generation means (fig. 3, #36) for employing print setup information in said document file, which is received from said computer via said transfer means, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

print setup reference means (fig. 3, #36) for employing said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said transfer means to said computer; and

printing means (fig. 1, #13, column 6, lines 1-9) for printing said document file that is stored in said storage means in accordance with said configuration file.

Regarding claim 2, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network that further comprises setup change means (column 6, lines 45-60), for, when said computer operates said menu via said transfer means, updating contents of said configuration file in accordance with the operation.

Regarding claim 3, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network wherein said menu (fig. 5, column 15, lines 19-65, column 16, lines 1-10) includes upper directories that are generated for individual entries in said print setup, and lower directories that are generated for individual setup values, one of which is included in each of said entries, and wherein said menu is formed by correlating visual display elements corresponding to said document file with said lower directories.

Regarding claim 4, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network comprising steps of:

Art Unit: 2622

receiving, from said computer via said network, (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) a document file to be printed and print setup information for said document file;

storing (fig. 2, #19) said document file in said printer;

employing said print setup information to generate, in said printer, a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file and employing said configuration file to generate, in said printer, a menu that listing contents of said print setup, and transmitting said menu to said computer (column 15, lines 19-67, and column 16, lines 1-10); and

printing said document file in accordance with said configuration file (fig. 1, #13, column 6, lines 1-9).

Regarding claim 5, Edwards et al. discloses a computer-readable recording medium on which a control program is stored for a printer that is connected to a computer via a network, said program permitting said printer to perform:

a transfer function (column 6, lines 1-54) for exchanging information with said computer via said network;

a storage function (fig. 2, #19, column 5, lines 24-37) for storing to a storage device,

a document file to be printed that is received from said computer (column 5, lines 49-67);

a configuration file generation function, for employing print setup information in said document file, which is received from said computer, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file and a print setup reference function, for employing said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu to said computer (column 15, lines 19-67, and column 16, lines 1-10);

and a printing function for printing said document file that is stored in said storage device in accordance with said configuration file (fig. 1, #13, column 6, lines 1-9).

Regarding claim 6, the claim is analogous to claim 2.

Regarding claim 7, the claim is analogous to claim 3.

Regarding claim 8, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:
a host computer (fig. 1, #12 & #14) for generating and transmitting print data; and
a printer (fig. 1, #13) that is connected via a network to said host computer, said host computer comprising:

user interface means (column 8, lines 17-37) for providing information for a user and for accepting instructions from said user;

print data generation means (column 6, lines 61-67 and column 7, lines 1-12) for converting, into print data, a file that is designated via said user interface means; and

communication means (fig. 3, #34) for communicating with said printer; and

said printer comprising: transfer means (#32) for exchanging information with said host computer via said network;

storage means (#19) for storing said print data received from said host computer via said transfer means;

configuration file generation means (fig. 3, #36) for employing print setup information for said print data, which are received from said host computer via said transfer means, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said print data;

Art Unit: 2622

print setup reference means (fig. 3, #36) for employing said configuration file to generate a menu listing the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said transfer means to said user interface means; and

print means (fig. 1, #13, column 6, lines 1-9) for printing, in accordance with said configuration file, said print data stored in said storage means.

Regarding claim 9, the claim is analogous to claim 2.

Regarding claim 10, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system (column 7, lines 63 and column 8, lines 1-16) wherein, when said host computer moves said print data included in said menu to a different printer via said user interface means, the first printer to receive said print data transmits to said different printer said print data stored in said storage means.

Regarding claim 11, the claim is analogous to claim 3.

Regarding claim 12, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:

a computer having a file transfer protocol client for transmitting a document file to be printed in accordance with a file transfer protocol; and a printer being connected to said computer via a network and having a file transfer protocol file server, said file transfer protocol file server comprising: storage means for storing said document file that is received; Edwards discloses in column 6, lines 1-44, that the computer and printer transmit and communicate

utilizing NPAP (Network Printing Alliance Protocol) which allows the computers and printers to communicate in either parallel, serial or bi-directionally. The printer allows for common file system #40, and manipulation of all files through host computers and by definition of a server and utilization of NPAP printer #13 is a print server.

Art Unit: 2622

configuration file generation means (fig. 3, #36) for employing print setup information in said document file and an initial value that is set in advance to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

print setup reference means (fig. 3, #36) for employing said configuration file to generate a menu that lists the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu to said computer; and setup change means for, when said menu is operated by said computer, updating the contents of said configuration file in accordance with an operation, wherein said document file stored in said storage means is printed in accordance with said configuration file.

Regarding claim 13, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network, comprising:

a file transfer unit (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) that exchanges information with said computer via said network;

storage unit (fig. 2, #19) that stores a document file to be printed that is received from said computer via said transfer means;

configuration file generator (fig. 3, #36) that employs print setup information in said document file, which is received from said computer via said transfer means, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

print setup reference unit (fig. 3, #36) that employs said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said transfer means to said computer; and

printing unit (fig. 1, #13, column 6, lines 1-9) that prints said document file that is stored in said storage means in accordance with said configuration file.

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding claim 14, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:

a host computer (fig. 1, #12 & #14) for generating and transmitting print data; and
a printer (fig. 1, #13) that is connected via a network to said host computer, said host computer comprising:

a user interface (column 8, lines 17-37) that provides information to a user and for accepting instructions from said user; a print data generator that converts, into print data, a file that is designated via said user interface; and

a communication unit (fig. 3, #34) that communicates with said printer; and said printer comprising:

a file transfer unit (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) that exchanges information with said host computer via said network;

a storage unit (#19) that stores said print data received from said host computer via said file transfer unit;

a configuration file generator (fig. 3, #36) that employs print setup information for said print data, which are received from said host computer via said file transfer unit, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said print data;

a print setup reference unit (fig. 3, #36) that employs said configuration file to generate a menu listing the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said file transfer unit to said user interface; and

a printing unit (fig. 1, #13, column 6, 1-9) that prints, in accordance with said configuration file, said print data stored in said storage unit.

Regarding claim 15, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:

Art Unit: 2622

a computer having a file transfer protocol client for transmitting a document file to be printed in accordance with a file transfer protocol; and a printer being connected to said computer via a network and having a file transfer protocol file server; Edwards discloses in column 6, lines 1-44, that the computer and printer transmit and communicate utilizing NPAP (Network Printing Alliance Protocol) which allows the computers and printers to communicate in either parallel, serial or bi-directionally. The printer allows for common file system #40, and manipulation of all files through host computers and by definition of a server and utilization of NPAP printer #13 is a print server.

said file transfer protocol file server comprising:

a storage unit (#19) that stores said document file that is received;

a configuration file generator (fig. 3, #36) that employs print setup information in said document file and an initial value that is set in advance to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

a print setup reference unit (fig. 3, #36) that employs said configuration file to generate a menu that lists the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu to said computer; and

a setup change unit that, when said menu is operated by said computer, updates the contents of said configuration file in accordance with an operation, wherein said document file stored in said storage unit is printed in accordance with said configuration file as disclosed by Edwards in column 15, lines 19-65, column 16, lines 1-10.

Regarding claim 16, Edwards et al. discloses a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network, comprising:

Art Unit: 2622

a file transfer unit (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) that exchanges information with said computer via said network;

a storage unit (fig. 2, #19) that stores a document file to be printed that is received from said computer via said file transfer unit; and

a controller #36, wherein said controller employs print setup information in a document file, which is received from said computer via said file transfer unit, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

wherein said controller employs said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup information, and transmits said menu via said file transfer unit to said computer, and wherein said controller controls printing of said document file, that is stored in said storage unit, in accordance with said configuration file (column 6, lines 1-54).

Regarding claim 17, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:

a host computer (fig. 1, #12 & #14) for generating and transmitting print data; and

a printer (fig. 1, #13) that is connected via a network to said host computer, said host computer comprising:

a user interface (column 8, lines 17-37) that provides information to a user and for accepting instructions from said user; a print data generator that converts, into print data, a file that is designated via said user interface; and

a communication unit (fig. 3, #34) that communicates with said printer; and said printer comprising:

a file transfer unit (fig. 3, #32, column 6, lines 1-54) that exchanges information with said host computer via said network;

Art Unit: 2622

a storage unit (#19) that stores said print data received from said host computer via said file transfer unit; and

a controller #36, wherein said controller employs print setup information in a document file, which is received from said computer via said file transfer unit, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

wherein said controller employs said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup information, and transmits said menu via said file transfer unit to said computer, and wherein said controller controls printing of said document file, that is stored in said storage unit, in accordance with said configuration file (column 6, lines 1-54).

Regarding claim 18, Edwards et al. discloses a network printing system comprising:

a computer having a file transfer protocol client for transmitting a document file to be printed in accordance with a file transfer protocol; and a printer being connected to said computer via a network and having a file transfer protocol file server, said file transfer protocol;

Edwards discloses in column 6, lines 1-44, that the computer and printer transmit and communicate utilizing NPAP (Network Printing Alliance Protocol), which allows the computers and printers to communicate in either parallel, serial or bi-directionally. The printer allows for common file system #40, and manipulation of all files through host computers and by definition of a server and utilization of NPAP printer #13 is a print server.

said file server comprising:

a storage unit (#19) that stores said document file that is received; and

a controller (#36, column 6, lines 10-59), wherein said controller employs print setup information in said document file and an initial value that is set in advance, to generate a

Art Unit: 2622

configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file; although, Edwards does not explicitly detail that an initial value is set in advance, it well known in the art that when a file is sent to a printer the file information is setup by default and that value is sent when a print file is sent to the printer, therefore, it would be inherent that Edwards system include this capability.

wherein said controller employs said configuration file to generate a menu that lists the contents of said print setup, and transmits said menu to said computer; wherein said controller updates the contents of said configuration file in accordance with an operation when said menu is operated by said computer, and wherein said document file stored in said storage unit is printed in accordance with said configuration file as can be seen in column 15, lines 19-65, column 16, lines 1-10.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Leiman et al. (US 6,469,796) a method for open system printing including routing print jobs automatically from different types of source computers to different types of printers without the source computers selecting printers for each job.

Kayeyama et al. (US 6,567,180) discloses a printing method for use with a print system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer either directly or by way of a network.

Art Unit: 2622


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L Jones whose telephone number is (703) 305-4675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (7:00am - 3:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David L. Jones



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